

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 3, 4, 6-10, 12-18, 21, 22, 24-28 and 30-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, only allowed claims 1, 5, 11, 19, 23 and 29 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant appreciates receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, which was submitted with the Supplemental IDS filed on August 29, 2003, and on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-15, 16-18, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31-33 and 34-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugita et al. (US 5,778,360). Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-15, 16-18, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31-33 and 34-40 have been canceled. Therefore, the merits of the Examiner's rejection shall not be discussed in this paper.

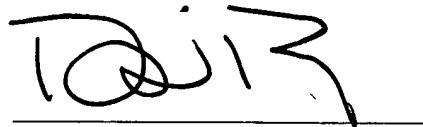
Claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 24, 25, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugita et al. (US 5,778,360). Claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 24, 25, 28 and 30 have been canceled. Therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection shall not be discussed in this paper.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of independent claims 1 and 19 and dependent claims 5, 11, 23 and 29.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Posz
Reg. No. 37,701

Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400